

WILLIAM R. NELSON, NOTED EDITOR, DIES

Owner of the Kansas City
Star Falls Victim to
Uraemic Poison.

IN CONTROL OF PAPER
FOR ALMOST 35 YEARS

Warm Friend of Late Samuel J. Tilden
and Helped Manage His
Presidential Campaign.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 13.—William Rockhill Nelson, editor and owner of the Kansas City Star, died at his home here this morning. Mr. Nelson, who was seventy-four years old, had been in ill health several months and had been confined to his home since last December. Uraemic poisoning caused his death, according to physicians.

Mr. Nelson took an active part in the management of the Star up until about a month ago, when his condition changed for the worse. Until then members of the Star staff gathered at his bedside several times weekly for his purpose. Nelson's death was a surprise to those who knew him. Nelson, who was born in New York, had been in the management of the Star since 1880. He was a warm friend of late Samuel J. Tilden and helped manage his presidential campaign.

Although his physicians constantly advised against the part he was taking, during the last few months, in the management of the paper he refused to obey them, reminding them that it was the building of the Star that he had been happiest and that he would not be content without something to occupy his mind.

Noted for Ability and Energy.

William Rockhill Nelson was founder, owner and editor of the Kansas City Star. Although he did not enter the newspaper business until he was nearly forty years old, he brought to it such originality, ability and energy that he built up one of the greatest newspapers of the country.

Mr. Nelson was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., March 7, 1841, was educated at Notre Dame University. After a short experience as a young man in cotton growing in Georgia just after the war, young Nelson returned to Indiana and became a general contractor. He engaged in the building of roads, pavements, and bridges, and was associated in a contract for the construction of the southern Illinois state penitentiary.

Intense admiration for the reform work of Samuel J. Tilden brought him into contact with that great democrat, and when only thirty-four years old he became Tilden's Indiana campaign manager. He bought an interest in the Fort Wayne Sentinel, and a business reverse determined him to devote all his time to journalism.

Locates in Kansas City.

He soon became convinced that the opportunities in Fort Wayne were too small, and after looking the field over he decided on Kansas City as the most promising city of the country. He persuaded his Fort Wayne partner, Samuel E. Morris, to make the venture with him. They sold their Fort Wayne interests, went to Kansas City and started the Evening Star and later the four-page afternoon newspaper September 18, 1880. Mr. Morris withdrew from the enterprise after a few months on account of ill health, and Mr. Nelson continued as sole owner and editor-in-chief.

Essentially a builder, he took an intense interest in the development of the city. One of his achievements was the residence of the city, which he had near his home as an example of what could be done toward city beautification. He built nearly a hundred of these houses along roads which he lined with stone walls covered with honeysuckles and crimson ramblers. He was intensely interested in art pictures, and he made a collection of reproductions of European masterpieces done by the best artists who could be found, which he gave to Kansas City.

Never Sought an Office.

In politics he was, as he often said, "Independent, but never neutral." He would never consider any elective or appointive position. Early in President Taft's administration the suggestion was made in newspaper reports that he might be appointed ambassador to France. He consented editorially as follows: "The editor of the Star is simply occupied, sustained and satisfied with his present job. He regards himself as holding a place of greater responsibility and usefulness than any within the gift of the President or the electorate. Not only has he never been a candidate, active or receptive, for the office, but he has never been asked for the appointment of any one else."

In 1881 Mr. Nelson married Miss Ida Houston. Their only child, a daughter, Mrs. Irwin R. Kirkwood, lives in Kansas City.

DESTROYERS TO COME HOME.

Cutter Will Be Left to Handle San Juan Neutrality Situation.

Treasury department officials believe the coast guard cutter Algonquin can handle the neutrality situation at San Juan, Porto Rico, making it possible for the destroyers to remain on station to come home for overhaul before the maneuvers of the Atlantic fleet. Acting Secretary Newton has discussed the matter with Secretary Daniels. When the German ship, Odenwald, was stopped by the guns of Morro Castle at San Juan for attempting to reach the coast without passing the destroyers were sent to help the Algonquin maintain the neutrality of the port.

After the California Expositions
—take a Little Sea Trip

Here's the idea: Go out to California by way of Denver, Colorado Springs, Pike's Peak, the Wonderful Royal Gorge and Salt Lake City. All this by daylight and, with extra charge provided, you travel on the Burlington Route (C. & N. W. R.), which has through service from Chicago and St. Louis.

After that, visit California and the Expositions and then take one of those magnificent new Great Northern Pacific Steamships, the finest on the Pacific from San Francisco up to Portland, Oregon. Then, homeward bound, stop at either Glacier National Park or Yellowstone Park—the wonders of the world.

Now will you allow me to help you plan for such a trip? That's what I'm here for. You are planning to spend a sum that entitles you to see the best scenery in the West. Give me an idea when you want to go, how long you can stay, etc., and I will plan a trip especially fitted to your time and needs. And, incidentally, I will charge such pictures, maps and printed matter as you desire. Let me help you to determine the best thing to do. Write, call or telephone. Let me help.

Wm. Austin, General Agent, Pacific Coast, Dept. C. & N. W. R. Co., 836 Chestnut St., Philadelphia—Advertisement.

OUR NATIONAL PARKS.

I.—Putting Them on a
Business Basis.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Stephen T. Mather, who has been chosen by Secretary Lane of the Interior Department to make our national parks and monuments familiar and accessible to the American people, once conducted a personal investigation to find out how much was known about these American wonders. Every time he met an American citizen of light and leading, a man who should have known his country's resources thoroughly, he took occasion to ask him how many national parks there were in the United States. Out of twenty prominent, intelligent and highly educated Americans there were only eleven who knew the names of as many as three of our national parks, while none of them knew that there were fourteen parks and monuments under the protection of the federal government.

These parks and monuments should not be confused with the national forests. The latter are timber reserves only. The parks and monuments are bits of the American wilderness that have been set aside because of their beauty and the national wonders and curiosities which they contain. Uncle Sam does not allow any one to cut a stick of timber, plow an acre of land or harm a wild thing upon these protected lands.

Certain it is that to most Americans the term "national park" suggests nothing except the Yellowstone and the Yosemite, and the Yosemite, which have been praised and advertised and toured to the exclusion of the other twelve, many of which are equally interesting and some of which are just as easy to reach. There can be no question but what our national parks and monuments constitute a great, undeveloped resource—not only a resource in their capacity to give health and rest and recreation to hundreds of thousands of people, but also in the sense that they are able to pay a splendid revenue both of the government and to the people.

A traveler who has seen practically all of the great mountains of the world has said that the Himalayas contain the most wonderful scenery that the American Rockies are second and that Switzerland is rather a bad third. Yet thousands of Americans have annually gone to Switzerland to climb peaks that were molehills beside the ones in their own Rocky mountains, and they have seen scenery decidedly less impressive than the American Rockies.

Furthermore, these Americans have spent their vacations and their millions of dollars without even stopping to learn what the United States had to offer. They do not even know the location of the parks, and they do not know some of the most wonderful scenery in the world. Every one, of course, has heard of the geysers of the Yellowstone and the Yosemite valley, but how many Americans have ever heard of Iceberg lake, in the Glacier National Park, where the great view scenery of the world is pushed a sheer front of ice 1,000 feet high into the crystal waters of the mountain lake. When the sun grows warm the great icebergs break away from the lake and float about in the water, where they float about in the wind, grinding against each other and awakening myriads of fishes in the mountain lake. Iceberg lake is undoubtedly one of the most weirdly beautiful spots in the world, yet few Americans know of its existence.

Automobile and coach lines are to be developed in the same way and always in mind, above all others, is to offer real service at moderate prices. The ability for providing accommodations and transportation at a reasonable rate. There are to be camps where pleasure-seekers of the most modest means can find accommodations within reach of their purses; hotels of a reasonable sort for those who have more money to spend, and some really luxurious establishments wherever the demand justifies them. In the same way, facilities for transportation about the parks are to be graded and carefully supervised, so that real service at moderate prices, rather than the exploitation of the tourist, will be the result.

The co-operation of the railroads has, of course, readily been secured, as the promotion of travel to the national parks will mean more business for them.

The other part of this scheme consists in educational work and propaganda generally to teach the American people about the natural wonders which they have at their feet. At present Congress is appropriating \$400,000 a year to patrol and care for the national parks, but the people have heard only a few Americans have ever heard of them.

It seems a long step from this state of affairs to the time when the parks will be paying the government a revenue and thousands of Americans will be enjoying their vacations in these wonderful mountain resorts. But there is nothing impracticable between the vision and the realization. The men who have made the plan are absolutely confident of its success.

Carry Middles on Annual Cruise.

The battleships Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin, the Naval Academy squadron, at present in reserve in the Philadelphia navy yard, have been ordered placed in full commission not later than Thursday. They will go to Annapolis about May 1 to carry the midshipmen on their summer cruise.

Located in Utah, natural wonders, but almost unknown to the public is the greatest natural bridge monument of Utah. In this wild mountain tract, which has been made a national park by the government as a natural wonder, there are a number of great sandstone arches, any one of which would make the Virginia bridge look lilliputian. The Augusta natural bridge, for example, spans a canyon 335 feet from wall to wall, with an arch of sandstone 60 feet thick in the center and 45 feet wide. Beneath it is a clear opening 357 feet in perpendicular height. This is more than twice the height of the Victoria bridge in England.

Easily one of the most spectacular mountain peaks in the world is Mount Ranier, in the Mount Ranier National Park. It is a lonely ice-capped mountain of tremendous height, with glaciers radiating from it in every direction and rivers springing from every glacier, while the fine curving snow-capped flanks are covered with forests and flower meadows.

It would be possible to go on at great length, naming natural wonders of our national parks and monuments that are almost unknown to the American public, but these striking natural features are not half as important as the parks themselves. Almost all of them are located in splendid mountain country,

where the summers are delightfully cool, and where fishing and mountain climbing may be enjoyed among the most picturesque and healthful surroundings. As a summer playground our national parks and monuments are an asset upon which we have absolutely failed to realize.

A splendid example of what may be done in the way of exploiting national scenery is afforded by Switzerland.

Source of Income.

Of the income of this little nation is derived from the tourists that visit the Swiss Alps. Upon the development of this great resource the Swiss government spends about two millions annually, while absolutely no effort is spared to turn travel in that direction.

Not long ago an American publisher wanted to buy a certain journal in this country which was devoted largely to travel and allied subjects. In the course of his negotiations he found that one of his competitors for the purchase was a foreigner who had been in this country only a short time. He was determined to investigate this man's purpose in seeking to purchase an American magazine, and eventually found out that he was a representative of the Swiss government and that he wanted to buy the journal for no other purpose than to turn the tide of American travel toward Switzerland. This same gentleman maintained a travel bureau in New York and routed parties, always keeping his true affiliations in the background. Thus he was enabled to turn the footstep of a tourist toward the country that he secretly represented.

The plan for exploiting the "American Alps" which has been devised by Mr. Mather, and which will be put into operation immediately, is based upon the apparently reasonable assumption that since our national parks are almost equal to Switzerland in natural charm and beauty, they should be put to use to furnish the American people with a great, inexpensive recreation ground, and to turn some of the millions that have been spent annually in European travel back into our own pockets. There are two prime purposes of this exploitation of the American national parks.

The first step must be to establish within all of the national parks hotels and camps where the pleasure-seekers may find inexpensive accommodations. There are accommodations of some sort on almost all of the national parks, but often these are very expensive, and on the less known parks they are altogether inadequate.

Now the government keeps up roads and trails in the national parks and patrols them by a very efficient system of rangers and guards. The rights to construct hotels have heretofore been leased to individuals for a very small sum, usually two or three hundred dollars, and immediate profits have been made upon the better known national parks. The plan now being considered by Mr. Mather is to have the government go into partnership with any one who wishes to establish a hotel or a public camp upon a national park or monument. A reasonable amount is to be deducted for all fixed charges, but the balance of the profits are then to be paid to the government. Furthermore, after a term of years, the property is to revert to the government and to be conducted under governmental management.

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SHOW OF ACTIVITY IN D. A. R. CONTEST

Story and Guernsey "Parties"
Lining Up for Campaign
Among Delegates.

FULL TICKETS IN FIELD
FOR NATIONAL OFFICES

Organization to Meet in Memorial
Continental Hall Monday Morning—Preliminaries Under Way.

With the opening session of the annual congress of the D. A. R. just one week distant, the politics of the organization is beginning to warm up. Complete tickets of the Story and Guernsey "parties" in the organization have been announced from the two headquarters, whence also have been given out lists of prominent and influential members who have publicly indicated one or the other of the tickets. The annual congress is to open Monday morning in Memorial Continental Hall, although the first gathering of the Daughters is to be held Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, when patriotic services will take place at the peace cathedral, Cathedral Close. Rev. Randolph H. McKim, rector of the Church of the Epiphany, is to preach at the services, and music is to be furnished by the cathedral choir, accompanied by a section of the Marine Band.

Mr. William Cumming Story, president of the D. A. R., is to receive the delegates and members of the organization in Memorial Continental Hall Monday evening, and President Nelson is to hold a reception to delegates in the east room of the White House Wednesday afternoon, April 21.

Local Candidate for Editorship.

Interest was aroused yesterday by the announcement that Miss Natalie Sumner Lincoln of this city, author and newspaper writer, is to be a candidate for election to the office of editor of the national society's magazine on the Story ticket. Miss Lincoln, who has been a member of Mary Floyd Ballmaier Chapter, Litchfield, Conn., since 1908, has been elected to the position of the state chapter of Connecticut, it is stated.

The complete ticket of Mrs. George Thacher Guernsey of Kansas, who seeks to succeed Mrs. Story as president, is to have the government go into partnership with any one who wishes to establish a hotel or a public camp upon a national park or monument. A reasonable amount is to be deducted for all fixed charges, but the balance of the profits are then to be paid to the government. Furthermore, after a term of years, the property is to revert to the government and to be conducted under governmental management.

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